THE

BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

VOL. XXVII. WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11, 1843. No. 23.

HYSTERIA.

BY EDWARD WARREN, M.D.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

So strong is the influence of a name, that we constantly associate hysterical diseases with the idea of some functional disturbance of the uterine system; and it is with reluctance that we concede the name to the disease when found in men or in young children. Yet we know that it is not uncommon in men, and that it does sometimes occur in infants; and also that when it does exist in females after the age of puberty, it is often unconnected with uterine disorder. In the following case the uterus certainly was not the principal part affected.

April 12th, 1837.—I was called in the afternoon to visit a girl of 11 years of age, whom I found suffering under a paroxysm of hysteria. She was lying on the bed, screaming and talking incoherently, with her eyes closed and her body and limbs violently convulsed. There was great distress in the region of the stomach. I was informed that these fits commenced about a year before I saw her, and had become more and more frequent and violent. Latterly they had recurred three or four times a day. They always commenced with, or were preceded by, great distress at the stomach. Convulsions with violent raving succeeded, and the paroxysm terminated in deep sleep or stupor. I ordered a large mustard poultice to be applied to the stomach, and an emetico-cathartic of ipecac and calomel, to be given as soon as it could be got down.

The next morning I found her calm and rational, though somewhat exhausted. The convulsions had subsided shortly after I left her, and the operation of the emetic was succeeded by a heavy sleep. April 30th. Perfectly well with the exception of great soreness from the mustard poultice, which had blistered severely. I found her to be a lively, intelligent girl, much older in appearance than in reality—a circumstance which might have induced me to suspect derangement of the uterine system; but that I could not ascertain that there was any difficulty in that quarter. She was of full habit, florid complexion, and displayed much interest in household matters and in the business concerns of the family, in all which she took an active part. She was the daughter of a tobacconist; and in the room occupied by the family during the day, were large quantities of tobacco, which it was their occupation to roll up into cigars. How far this may have had an effect in exciting nervous disorder, I cannot say; my impression is that it had little or nothing to do with

it, since a removal into the country had been previously tried without benefit. Her bowels had been costive. I directed purgative pills to be given every other night, and the mustard poultice to be repeated on the instant an attack was threatened. The pills operated pretty briskly. She had a fit on about the fourth day after I first saw her, but it was slighter and of short duration. The soreness from the mustard poultice still continuing, it was not considered necessary to apply a fresh one. The purgative pills were now omitted, pills of sulphate of iron with extract of gentian given three times a day, and the bowels kept regular by the occasional exhibition of Epsom salts. After this she had no return of the convulsions for three weeks, when the mustard poultice was again applied. I now put her for a short time upon pills of gum assafœtida, which seemed to be attended with some benefit. This was succeeded by the employment of the subcarbonate of iron given in powder three times a day, as a more convenient medicine than the pills of the sulphate, where its use was required for a length of time. The repetition of the sinapism on the first warning of a coming fit was rigidly urged. The attacks became less and less frequent and were slighter when they occurred, and my attendance was gradually dispensed with.

The employment of the poultice was suggested to me in the first place by the distress at the stomach. It being impossible to give medicine during the paroxysm, and the difficulty commencing in this region and being attended with more pain than is usual in hysteria, I deemed it proper to direct the remedies to this quarter, and to use such as were of most speedy operation.

But in ordering its repetition I had another object. In convulsive disorders dependent upon nervous irritation, it will often be proper to counteract the nervous excitement by excitement of an opposite character. Strong passions, fear, aversion, &c., have, as is well known, a powerful control over convulsive disorders; and the instance in which a celebrated surgeon employed a red-hot poker to stop the progress of such disorders, is familiar to every one. In one of a course of lectures published about three years since in the Lancet, there is an interesting case of a young lady who was subject to hysterical convulsions. The lecturer stated that with the view of producing a strong impression on the nervous system, he had desired her friends to inform him of the object to which she had the greatest aversion. Having ascertained that she had a violent antipathy to dogs, he ordered that on the next approach of a paroxysm a great dog should be brought and placed in close contact with her face. This was accordingly done, and the result was completely successful. The lady had no recurrence of the fits for some months; and when one finally did occur, by which her friends were aroused at an early hour in the morning, she was hurried out of bed and placed in a shower bath. The fits never came on again; and the lecturer mentions that he published this case at the time, as a successful instance of this mode of treatment. Unfortunately for the force of its application, he goes on to say, that some years subsequent he received a letter from the same lady, stating that the convulsions had been altogether feigned to prevent her being sent to school. Although he was deceived in this instance, how-

ever, the principle upon which the treatment was founded was sound and judicious. It was well calculated to produce the desired effect, if the disease had been real, or to detect deception had he in any degree suspected it; which he did not in the least. Disorders of this kind have been feigned for the purpose of attracting attention and becoming of consequence, or for the accomplishment of some other purpose. More frequently they are the result of a disordered imagination, and in perhaps a very large class of hysterical affections, the patient is half deceived herself, and half a deceiver. Her sufferings are viewed through the magnifying glass of the imagination; and the fear that others do not think her as ill as she believes herself to be, leads her to put the worst face upon all her complaints. A patient of this description will often have every bad symptom which her physician inquires about, and each in its most aggravated degree. Many of them will be entirely inconsistent with each other.

It is the province of the expert physician to detect deception where it exists, but we have no right to suspect it without good grounds.

January, 1843..

ON THE LOCATIONS OF THE FUNCTIONS OF THE BRAIN.

[Translated for this Journal by JOHN F. MAY, M.D.—Continued from page 368.]

BEFORE terminating this portion of the work which belongs to comparative anatomy, we should enter into some details in regard to the instinct of generation and its organ. A well-sustained observation has demonstrated to us: 1st, That in the adult mammalia the proportion of the cerebellum follows constantly that of the brain; from which it results that in all, the generative propensity should have the same relative force. 2d, That the occipital surface receding obliquely towards the base of the cranium, and being covered by a muscular mass, cannot be appreciated from the exterior. Now in face of a difficulty of this kind, we would ask how Gall could appreciate not only the size of the cerebellum in man, but also the difference which it presented between animals that are castrated and those that are not. He calls to the support of his hypothesis the experience of cattle drovers, who consider as most apt for generation bulls that have the nape of the neck full and robust. This fact, though very exact in itself, is improperly interpreted by the founder of phrenology; for if the cattle jockeys do attach so much importance to the power of the neck, it is because they regard it as the index of general vigor, and as the most certain guarantee of a robust issue. 3d, All birds have the cerebellum large, and the cock is not more favored in this respect than others. 4th, Among fish, the silurus (skeat fish) which does not copulate more than others, has the cerebellum predominant over all the rest of the encephalon.—(*Cruveilhier, Descript. Anat.*, Vol. iv.)

Let us also consider certain faculties which animals share with man, and which have not yet been the object of a particular refutation. 1st, The sense of locality, so well developed in dogs, should have its organ

more restricted than in the monkey and man, considering the contraction of the anterior portion of the brain: nevertheless the monkey and man are inferior to dogs in the energy of this sense. 2d, The instinct of imitation is very strong in the quadrumana; yet at this moment we have before our eyes the cranium of a monkey, in which the frontal bone, contracted below, widens and curves above as in man. Its appearance is uniform, and no special conformation indicates the predominance of imitation, for there is no depression or projection to mark it. In order to conform with the doctrine of the localizers, it is necessary to admit that the adjacent organs, such as veneration, benevolence and ideality, not being developed, all the superior part of the frontal bone is devoted to imitation. Is there any visible configuration which proves the non-existence of these organs, arbitrarily sacrificed to the instinct of imitation? Undoubtedly not. But we do not observe in the monkey the moral manifestations which correspond to these organs; therefore the monkey does not possess them; and therefore the entire superior portion of the frontal is occupied by the organ of imitation. We have purposely reproduced this flexible logic, which the believers apply to the cranium of man with extraordinary success, provided always that the character of the subject is known in advance.

A few remarks on the relation of the hemispheres with the cranium will be of a nature to cast new light on the preceding pages, and prevent many objections.

In all carnivorous animals, the posterior and lateral parts of the brain visibly preponderate over the other parts. In those whose cranium is globular, the zygomatic apophysis is very near the occipital bone, and nearly the whole hemisphere is concentrated into a uniform protuberance above and in front of this apophysis, from whence it results that the bad instincts and the mild affections are necessarily confounded; and this confusion is fatal to phrenology. What, in effect, becomes of the doctrine of locations, if the friendship of the dog has no distinct organic expression? Other carnivorous animals have the brain more elongated and extended, so that the supra-zygomatic region is distinguished by the form of the posterior parietal region. This distinction is again fatal to phrenology. What is this doctrine of locations, if in the brain of the ferret the organs of destruction and combativeness are governed by those of friendship and philoprogenitiveness? In order to remove the difficulty which results from the contrast of the brains of the dog and the weasel, it is necessary to refuse to carnivorous animals any other than nutritive instincts, and to give to these instincts all the lateral and posterior portions of the brain. But here a new obstacle arises; for in the dog, the wolf and the lion, as well as in the ferret and weasel, all the parieto-temporal region would be sacrificed to destruction, cunning, &c. But as carnivorous animals are attached to their habitations, their young and their benefactors, it becomes necessary to divide this region into the supra-zygomatic and posterior parietal. The impossibility of this distinction in the types of the group is unfortunate for phrenology; and this same distinction, though naturally made in small animals with short legs, is yet contrary to the doctrine of locations.

We have drawn from comparative anatomy (favorable at first sight to the system of Gall) the most powerful reasons for controverting it; and observe, that in this part of our work we have not attacked the edifice piece by piece, calculating and measuring with minutiæ the heads of the mammalia. But, far from it, we have scrupulously examined their craniі in their relations with the entire skeleton; and when we have seen the cranium of the carnivorous weasel analogous in form to that of the frugivorous mouse, as phrenology did not explain to us this resemblance, we have sought for the cause elsewhere, and have found it in the resemblance in attitude between the weasel and mouse. And then we have come to the following conclusion. The form of the cranium in the animal kingdom, is necessarily connected with the conditions of station.

Again, when we have seen the gnawing beaver analogous in the cranium to the carnivorous cat, we have supposed that the beaver, in order to satisfy his industrious instincts, has a jaw as strong as that of carnivorous animals, and as a consequence demands a cranium as broad also across the temples, as well for the articulation of the jaw as for the insertion of the temporal muscle. And then we have again deduced the following conclusion. The form of the cranium in the animal kingdom is also connected with the mechanical conditions of mastication.

But this was but an idea *a priori*, which required the sanction of analysis. And we then interrogated the animal kingdom; and each species, with its attitude and particular habits, has justified our presumptions. From that time synthesis, as above announced, has taken rank among scientific truths, and become established as a law. We have applied it to the examination of phrenology, and as a fruitful source have derived from it all our objections and all our refutations. Therefore instead of pronouncing empirical and partial denials, and bringing forward against the system a few refractory facts scattered here and there, without order and connection, we have opposed to the phrenologists principles with all the facts which surround them, forming a complete doctrine upon the signification of the forms of the cranium. Without this doctrine, we could not have sought from comparative anatomy a just appreciation of the system of Gall; without it we could have made figures, taken the measurements of the cranium, explained the variety of habits by the difference of the twentieth of a line in such or such a diameter; or, rather, we could have explained nothing at all. And in our conclusions we should then have exclaimed, phrenology is true for the *greater number* of carnivorous animals, but not for all. It is false for the *greater number* of gnawing animals. The camel is an exceptional animal, &c. In a word, we should have supposed the existence of anarchy in *nature*. .....But every anatomical conformation exists in virtue of some *law* which gives to it a *constant* signification. Now the law of the form of the cranium has led us to conclude that comparative anatomy gives the lie to the doctrine of phrenology.

Do not suppose, however, that we regard the cranium of animals as incapable of giving the measurement of their intelligence and character. We maintain, on the contrary, that it can furnish an exact appreciation of it. In fact, we have already established the two following anatomi-

cal laws. 1st. The development of the occipital ridge is in direct and compound ratio with the height of the animal, and with the weight of the face. 2d. That of the inter-parietal ridge is in direct ratio with the power of the jaws, and in inverse ratio with the brain.

Now it evidently results from this double principle, that the form of the cranium expresses intelligence, since the latter is in direct ratio with the brain, and in inverse ratio with the face. But it is not only the expression of moral faculties that nature has inscribed on the cranium of animals; she has also traced there the attitude and the general model (type) of the face. The bearing and action (facies) of the large carnivorous animals, breathing at the same time power and menace, are to their nature what gesture is to thought: now the exterior of their cranium indicates at the same time this bearing and action (facies) by the size of the occipital and parietal ridges. These signs are so certain, that a little experience suffices to enable us to judge from the mere view of the cranium of a lion, or hyena, its intelligence, its attitude, and the size of its jaws.

In proportion as we descend the scale of carnivorous animals we see the ridges diminish or disappear, the jaws lessen, the encephalon increase in intelligence. Now in this class of animals, the nutritive instincts are only effectually repressed by intelligence; we may indeed say that the volume of the hemispheres gives the inverse measurement of ferocity, and this remark will suffice to show how we can find on the cranium not only the expression of the intellectual faculties, but also that of the habits in the aggregate *(celle du moral dans son ensemble)*. The existence of ridges in the boogoo, a species of the baboon (simia maimon), their absence in the ourang, explain to us the moral differences that distinguish these two animals.

The human cranium, of which we have not yet spoken, bears on its surface the triple signs of faculties, of attitude and of physiognomy. In fact, the central position of the occipital foramen (foramen magnum) tells us at once that the biped attitude is the only one natural to man, and as a consequence produces a diminution of the elevating muscles of the head and the disappearance of the occipital ridge. At the same time that the brain increases and the jaws diminish, the cranium is developed in its cavity by a process of ossification which is wanting in the face. The two insertions of the temporal muscles, forming a large ridge in large carnivorous animals, are scarcely marked in man by two curved lines, separated from each other and parallel throughout their entire course. It follows from the disposition of these lines that the superior surface of the parietal bones, which is wanting in the lion and jaguar, narrow and triangular in the water dog, and quadrilateral and bulging but still narrow in the ourang, acquires in man very large dimensions, forming almost entirely the arch of the cranium, and corresponding as extensively with the hemispheres. On the other side, the marked reduction of the frontal sinus and the absence of a large supra-orbitary ridge are favorable to the amplitude of the cranium anteriorly. From all these simultaneous changes, the human cranium is formed, characterized by the centrality of the occipital foramen and the absence of the

occipital ridge—indications of the biped attitude; by the narrowness of the frontal sinus, the separation and parallelism of the temporal lines, the breadth and convexity of the arch of the parietal bones—indications of the augmentation of the brain and the diminution of the jaws. The human cranium, like that of carnivorous animals, has inscribed on its suface, and under the same signs, intelligence, attitude and physiognomy, gesture and thought. These three facts have such necessary connections between themselves, that a striking variation in attitude or in the volume of the jaws would be incompatible with the cranial capacity, and consequently with the moral superiority which is faithfully expressed by the volume of the hemispheres.

It is then easy to establish, for our species in general, the intimate connection between the forms of the head and the mechanical conditions already mentioned. But do the individual variations of these forms suppose analogous variations in the mechanism of the trunk and face? The different varieties of the human race have at the same time a special carriage and a special form of the cranium: to be convinced of this, it is only necessary to compare in this respect the Negro with the European. The Caucasian race itself presents, in different nations, slight diversities of attitude and of the form of the cranium. If, for example, we compare a Frenchman with an Englishman, we shall be convinced that the former presents in his bearing, attitude and shape of the cranium, an incontestible originality. Individuals of even the same nation furnish in this double point of view infinite variations. But these diversities of attitude depend on infinitely slight anatomical differences, inappreciable separately, and only apparent by their general result. But it is necessary to take into account each of these shades of difference, to establish a harmonious relation between the form of the cranium and the general mechanism, in each race, each nation, and each individual; which would appear to us to be sufficiently difficult. The existence of this relation is absolutely necessary; to particularize how it exists, is impossible. But as it regards the connection between the form of the cranium and the size of the jaws, this can be determined by a comparison of the human species.

[To be continued.]

HINDOO PHYSICIANS.

BY O. R. BACHELER, M.D., MISSIONARY IN HINDOSTAN.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

THE practice of medicine among the Hindoos was formerly, no doubt, principally confined to the Brahmins, or priests; yet at present the profession is composed of several castes, although the Brahmins are by far the most numerous. As a body, they are probably quite as intelligent and well informed as any other class.

A person acquainted with the medical humbugs of civilized countries, would not be surprised that the unaspiring Hindoo practitioners should sometimes resort to jugglery when more honest means have failed; yet

I think humbugging is not so common among them as might reasonably be expected. Their system of medicine, so far as it extends, is perhaps as systematic and precise as the systems of the most classic authors. Their means of information are exceedingly limited. By the principles of their religion they are deprived of the opportunities of dissection, the touch of a dead body being considered pollution. Consequently they know nothing of anatomy but what they learn from the living subject. Of course many of their principles are exceedingly erroneous; yet their method of reasoning from what they know clearly indicates that they are close observers of the phenomena of the human system both in health and disease. Their materia medica comprises a vast collection from the vegetable, mineral and animal kingdoms, and their pharmaceutical preparations and combinations are innumerable.

Surgery, of course, is a science almost entirely unknown. In most surgical cases the patient is left entirely to the operations of nature. Suppuration invariably follows the slightest wounds. They know nothing of healing by the first intention. Midwifery is generally practised by females.

Any person, of whatever caste, may become a regular practitioner by making himself acquainted with the prevailing system of medicine. Their medical books amount to several volumes, and the time necessary to become acquainted with their system varies from one to two years, according to the ability of the student.

The proportion of practitioners to the number of inhabitants, is very great. Probably not less than one per cent. are physicians. Indeed almost every village contains one or more. Their emoluments vary with the different classes among whom they practise. A respectable physician, of this city, informs me that in cases of severe illness he gets from 25 cts. to $1,00, provided he cures; but if he does not cure, he gets nothing, not even for his medicine. In country places, of course, the fee is far less.

Their means of diagnosis in obscure diseases are various, but the two principal are the pulse and urine. All diseases are divided primarily into three classes; viz., rheumatic, bilious and phlegmatic. These several diatheses are indicated by the variation of the pulse, which they suppose to be air pervading the system, and the different appearances of the urine.

The *rheumatic* diathesis is indicated by an irregular, full and slow pulse, resembling in its motion the swimming of an alligator or a fish, or the running of a snake. The urine is colorless, and a drop of oil dropped into it spreads out into irregular lines.

The *bilious* is indicated by a quick, full and bounding pulse, resembling the walking of a crab, the flying of a crow, or the leaping of a frog. The urine is deeply colored, and the drop of oil spreads out into a large, well-defined circle.

The *phlegmatic* is indicated by a full, slow pulse, resembling the walking of a goose, or a peacock, or a dove. The urine is slightly colored, and the drop of oil remains stationary.

These three classes may be combined to an almost infinite extent,

forming a multitude of distinct diseases, divided into various orders, genus, species, &c., which are severally indicated by the combination of the symptoms common to the three primary diatheses. Perfect health is the equilibrium of the rheumatic and bilious diseases.

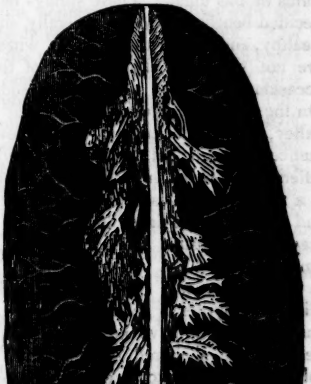
However erroneous many of their principles must necessarily be, yet they are certainly oftentimes very correct in their diagnosis, and not unfrequently very expert in the cure of disease.

Balisore, Hindostan, Aug. 12, 1842.

BONE IN THE DURA MATER.—LARGE ABDOMINAL TUMOR.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

1. Col. Clark Rice, æt. 50 years, of Jackson, died the 20th of October last, after a sickness of sixteen days. Symptoms of violent cerebral disease distinguished the case. Eleven hours after death, I found the following singular morbid development, which the friends very kindly allowed me to keep, viz.:—From the cerebral surface of the dura mater, near the crown, projected four clusters of ragged bones, with sharp points extending backwards and downwards, perforating the other tunics and entering the substance of the brain. The largest cluster measures over an inch in length and half an inch in width. The tunics were severely inflamed and indurated. Several ounces of serum had been effused. I herewith send you a representation of these bones, as accurate as can be drawn.



2. Gideon Gifford, æt. 37, of Argyle, died the 3d of October last, of marasmus. He had a tumor in the abdomen which had been growing two years, supposed to be hypertrophy of the spleen. On examination, ten hours after death, the organs were all found in a normal state. A tumor was dissected from the abdomen, weighing fourteen pounds. It occupied the whole left side of the cavity, and was slightly attached to the spleen, intestines and abdominal walls. It was evidently constituted of indurated and tumefied mesenteric glands, forming one morbid mass. The superior mesenteric and colic arteries supplied it with blood.

North White Creek, Wash. Co., N. Y. Henry C. Gray.
December 13, 1842.

MEDICAL TOPOGRAPHY OF SCIOTO COUNTY, OHIO.

[Dr. G. S. B. Hempstead, a careful student of nature, who resides at Portsmouth, Ohio, communicated a valuable article at the late Medical Convention in that State, a brief extract from which is copied below. The thermometric and barometric observations made by Dr. Hempstead, are exceedingly creditable to him, and well worth the imitation of physicians generally. Portsmouth, on the Ohio river, is in lat. 38 38 N., and long. 82 56 W.]

Mineral and medicinal springs are numerous in this locality. Those of the east side of the valley contain salt and iron, petrolium or bituminous oil; and one deposits, for two or three rods from its origin, a substance as white as snow, supposed to be magnesia, but more probably sulphate of lime. The chalybeate springs hold iron in such minute divisions as to be well suited to those cases of excitable debility which frequently occur, and are often aggravated by any of the pharmacological forms of this tonic. These springs have been resorted to with much and decided benefit; they are generally situated in a mountain region, high, healthy, and among the furnaces, where novelty, exercise and amusement are not wanting. The springs of the western or limestone region are occasionally charged with sulphur, soda, magnesia, iron and other salts. On the waters of Brush Creek, about four or five miles from the Scioto valley, around the margin of an elevated portion of glady country, a number of medicinal springs are found, containing a variety of salts, and differing somewhat in character from each other. As these are situated in a region unsurpassed for romantic scenery, above miasmatic influence, and possessing the finest hunting and fishing ground in the State, they may, at no distant period, become a desirable resort for health and amusement.

On the west side of the valley, and near the Ohio, is a locality supplied with pyrites or sulphuret of iron, in large masses, and in such abundance as once to have induced preparations for the manufacture of copperas. The sheltered rocks in this vicinity are so thickly coated with sulphate of iron as to be easily collected for domestic use. In the summer of 1830, the writer witnessed an interesting phenomenon at this place. The rocky bed of the creek had been dry for some time, and exposed for many days to a temperature above 90 degrees, when a number of explosions occurred, from the expansion and eruption of large masses of very pure pyrites, imbedded in the solid rock, leaving excavations indicating the boulder of sulphuret of iron to have been from twelve to eighteen inches in diameter.

With much solicitude have many of our citizens directed their attention to that splendid improvement of the State, "the Ohio and Erie Canal," traversing the centre of the county from north to south, and producing, in many places, ponds and stagnant water which it was feared would be fruitful sources of miasm; but as yet there is no evidence of any deleterious emanations from it. A careful observation for the last nine years in the vicinity of this improvement, has not detected any additional malarious influence, any increase of disease, or any new ailment

affecting in any way the health of the inhabitants, excepting during the autumn when the excavation was going forward, at which time it was visited with an unusual amount of disease. This latter circumstance was also peculiarly apparent in 1840 and 1841, upon that part of "the Portsmouth and Columbus turnpike" which runs through the same county, especially where excavations and embankments were progressing during the fall months. In consequence of accidents, or to make repairs, the water of the canal has been repeatedly drawn off, at the most unfavorable season, exposing an extensive, slimy and foul surface to the action of an autumnal sun, until all moisture has been dissipated: and yet no deleterious influence has been the result. So far from this being the case, a single incident in 1837 goes to show an opposite effect. The ordinary diseases of the summer had been rather prevalent in the immediate vicinity of the canal, and a considerable number were then sick. On the 8th of September the water was drawn off, and the writer is confident that six new cases did not occur in that vicinity for the balance of the season.

It is estimated that two thirds of this county is still covered with the native forests, most of which are on the hills, and elevated regions. The farms, particularly on the west side of the valley, are confined to the water courses, and do not occupy the table land; while the north-eastern parts of the county are cultivated, in many places, from the streams to the rolling surface of the summit. Portsmouth, and the plain on which it is situated, is elevated about four hundred and eight feet above the Atlantic, rising towards the north some thirty-five feet. The highest hills on the west, are near nine or ten hundred feet, and those of the east about six or seven hundred above the same level. A range of high hills, arising immediately from the southern shores of the Ohio, traverse the whole southern border of this locality, falling from east to west about twenty feet, having an average elevation of about four hundred feet above low water in the Ohio. As has been intimated, this region is subject to occasional inundations from the Scioto and Ohio rivers. From the first settlement of the county in the year 1795 to the year 1820, they were more frequent and certain than since—gradually they have been diminishing in height and frequency, until the present time; with one exception, the flood of '32. Since that period the Ohio bottoms have not been inundated until the present winter, during which the water has been four times at forty-five and once at fifty feet above low-water mark. A rise and fall of sixty-five feet might be supposed to exercise some influence over the diseases of a region subject to its action. Whether it be the floods or the elevation of the bottoms, the slopes and the table land, which give character to the diseases of the up and low land, may not be so readily determined. The difference, however, in the localities is very striking, the purely miasmatic being confined to the inundated portions, while a different class occupies the higher regions; and the line of separation is well defined and easily traced.

BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

BOSTON, JANUARY 11, 1843.

NORTHERN LAKES AND SOUTHERN INVALIDS.

Dr. Drake, of the Louisville Medical Institute, formerly of Cincinnati, made a tour of medical inquiry, the past summer, through a vast extent of country. Believing that others might enjoy as much in passing over the same romantic sections, he has given the public a pamphlet, containing an outline of what may be seen on the route, rather than what he individually saw. He must have collected material for an exceedingly lively and instructive narrative; but the present publication is hardly complete enough to satisfy the mind of an inquisitive reader. Invalids, to whom the author ostensibly addresses himself, would undoubtedly derive all the advantages that are pointed out, by sailing over the great lakes; yet they must first possess the wherewithal for defraying the expenses of such a journey. When it is recollected that the voyage from Buffalo to Chicago is more than 1200 miles, which is but a beginning of the journey that is described as being so delightfully exciting, invalids of moderate means could hardly think of commencing a jaunt so extensive in its geographical boundaries. Those, however, who are weary from satiety, having done nothing, and having nothing to do, might improve their inactive intellects, and be roused from the physical ailments that creep insidiously upon them through the fulness of wealth, by visiting the remarkable chain of lakes which Dr. Drake has invested with new charms. He certainly excites a desire to see objects which he is perpetually presenting to the mental eye or imagination of the reader. In a word, the paper, for it seems to have been modestly introduced into the Western Journal of Medicine and Surgery, as an unpretending article, is like the frame of a large edifice; it only wants finishing to be unexceptionable. Still, it is an agreeable production, in good taste, and exceedingly well calculated to create a desire for viewing the multitude of objects shadowed forth in these twenty-nine octavo pages. We wish that Dr. Drake might go over the whole ground a second time, leisurely, and then give us a minute account of the geological features of the north-west; exhibit man in his wildness; describe the animals that abound there—the creeping things, too; and finally, in his appropriate character of a medical philosopher, decide upon the value of life in those distant regions of the north-west, which invite the introduction of civilization.

Crania of Egypt.—It is currently reported that Dr. Morton, of Philadelphia, is preparing a work that will possess an extraordinary interest for the antiquarian, the physiologist, and even the phrenologist, on the crania of the ancient Egyptians. Skulls have been put in his possession, belonging to a remote epoch, by Mr. Geo. R. Gliddon, late a resident of Cairo, who is now lecturing very acceptably in Boston on the archæology of Egypt, and he will thus be enabled to develope some remarkable facts in regard to the primitive inhabitants of the valley of the Nile. He will

satisfactorily demonstrate that the builders of the pyramids were Caucasians. This will be an unexpected discovery to the historian, since the opinion has been propagated, from age to age, that the authors of the monumental hyreoglyphics were Africans. That they were white men seems now placed beyond dispute by the erudite researches of Mr. Gliddon; and his assertions it is said, will be abundantly corroborated by the silent yet essential testimony of a large collection of dry bones, which dress the philosopher of modern times in a language that cannot be misunderstood.

Hindoo Medical Science.—A communication appears in the Journal today, from Dr. O. R. Bacheler, in the service of the Baptist Foreign Missionary Society, who is stationed at Balisore, in Hindostan. He will be recollected by the medical class attending lectures in Boston during the winter of 1839. It is gratifying to announce that he intends furnishing something on Hindoo medical science, which is believed to be, says the doctor, "worthy of investigation." Dr. Bacheler informs us, in a private note, that his position among the people has been, thus far, exceedingly barren of interesting medical cases. Fevers and diarrhœa are the prevailing diseases of the country. He says, further—"We get the Journal regularly, and it affords us an excellent treat. I hope it has been paid for." By this paragraph we apprise him that the Society have paid the subscription punctually; and we are glad to hear of its regularity in reaching the distant country to which it is directed. We would respectfully request other medical missionaries, under whose eye these observations may fall, to transmit whatever may be useful or interesting to us for publication.

Aneurism—Medical Testimony.—Miss Hamblin, the actress, was recently tried at Mobile for the murder of Ewing, an actor, her reputed husband, whom she stabbed in three places. She was acquitted by the jury, mainly on the testimony of Dr. Levert—which was as follows: "Dr. Levert examined the body, and at first thought that the wounds were the cause of his death. Upon opening the abdomen he discovered much blood—but tracing the course of the knife he saw no bloodvessel cut. On going further, he found the remains of an aneurism in the abdominal aorta, which had been ruptured—which rupture sufficiently accounting for the death of Ewing, witness proceeded no further in his examination. There are cases on record of the existence of aneurisms without the attendance of serious symptoms manifesting their being. In this instance the aneurism was very large, and attenuated to such a degree that witness wondered how the party had lived so long—as any slight cause, such as a blow, or even a sneeze, might have caused its rupture, and so have induced death. The most probable causes of rupture would be anger, a blow, or great muscular exertion. Aneurism is a disease of the arteries, in the progress of which, the inner coats being the most tender, are the first destroyed, while the outer, being quite tough, last much longer. Wounds of the stomach are always dangerous—death does not usually, however, supervene immediately upon a slight puncture of that organ, but is the result of subsequent inflammation. In this case, it is possible that Ewing might have died of the wounds alone, without the presence of the aneurism—but not immediately—and only af-

ter inflammation had taken place. Witness had before treated a case of wounded stomach, where the injury to that organ was greater than in this instance, and the patient recovered. After finding a probable cause for the death of Ewing, witness ceased his examination. The knife entered the opposite side to the aneurism, and did not reach it. It was ruptured by other agencies—and there was sufficient cause in the excitement under which deceased labored, induced by the liquor he had taken, and the fit of anger into which he was suddenly thrown, to account for his death."

Medical Poetry.—Some months ago, a manuscript poem, entitled "*The Young Physician to his Heart*," was received from the city of Washington, and has since been lying in the drawer for consideration. There is certainly a display of ingenuity and poetical fervor exhibited in it; but, after all, it would be out of place in a scientific journal. There is an objection to the sentiment in the concluding lines—and were we in the way of writing critiques on that species of composition, there would be full scope for a display on the following words—"*Thou knowest of naught beyond the grave*," which is giving the go-by to revelation, in a very unceremonious manner. In case of its non-publication in the second place indicated by the anonymous author, it will be subject to his order—and he will please accept our thanks for his kind intentions.

Breathing under Water.—Some of the journals of science announce some recent experiments made by Dr. Payerne, of London, as the most remarkable of modern times. In seems that this gentleman is connected with a polytechnic school, and is distinguishing himself by the novelty and value of his discoveries. He descended in a diving bell, in an ordinary every-day dress, where he remained three hours, without any communication whatever with the air above water, apparently not at all inconvenienced by the trial. He believed he could as readily have remained twelve or twenty-four hours. All this was accomplished by taking down something that would absorb the carbonic acid gas as fast as it was generated by the lungs—and something else from which free oxygen can be obtained. Pure potassa will absorb nearly half its weight of carbonic acid gas; and chlorate of potass gives out, when heated, 39.15 parts per 100 of oxygen. Dr. Payerne is engaged in a series of experiments with reference to moving about under water in a subaqueous boat. Should anything especially interesting to science come to light through his further efforts, it will be noted for publication.

Amputation during Mesmeric Sleep.—An account was read at the meeting of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society of London, on the 22d of November, of an amputation of the thigh for ulceration of the knee-joint, while the patient was in what is called the Mesmeric sleep. Like other surgical operations in similar circumstances, which have been detailed in this country and elsewhere by persons interested in the success of animal magnetism, this is represented to have been performed with perfect unconsciousness on the part of the patient. It is acknowledged, however, that after being Mesmerized for the operation, he was awakened by merely being moved towards the end of the bed by means of the bedclothes under him, and he was again put to sleep after being placed in

the most convenient position. It is also stated that, after the second incision, a moaning commenced which continued, at intervals, till the conclusion of the operation; and the patient himself, though denying that he felt any pain, said that he once felt as if he heard a kind of "crunching." The first dressing of the wound was likewise stated to have been done while in the same unconscious state. The subject was pretty fully discussed by the members of the Society, most of whom (among them Sir Benj. Brodie, Dr. Marshall Hall, Mr. Liston and Mr. Bransby Cooper) expressed themselves as disbelievers in animal magnetism; and instances were related by several in which quite as remarkable insensibility to pain was manifested without any preparation by means of magnetic manipulations.

To Correspondents.—Dr. Cutting's case of Tumor in the Abdomen will be inserted next week.—The article on anatomy, before alluded to, as it is to occupy several Nos. will be deferred to the commencement of the next volume.—The Report from the Albany Medical College came too late for this week.—Dr. Alcott's communication is received.

Number of deaths in Boston for the week ending Jan. 7, 31.—Males, 12; Females, 19. Stillborn, 3.
Of consumption, 3—cramp, 1—child-bed, 2—infantile, 2—palsy, 1—scirrhous stomach, 1—pleurisy fever, 1—inflammation of the bowels, 1—lung fever, 2—smallpox, 2—inflammation of the lungs, 2—puerperal fever, 2—varioloid, 1—convulsions, 1—marasmus, 1—croup, 1—dropsy, 1—debility, 1—disease of the lungs, 2—scarlet fever, 1—erysipelas, 1—scrofula, 1.

REGISTER OF THE WEATHER,

Kept at the State Lunatic Hospital, Worcester, Ms. Lat. 42° 15′ 49″. *Elevation* 483 *ft.*

1842. Dec.	THERM. Sun r.	THERM. 2, P.M.	THERM. Sun s.	BAROMETER. Sun r.	BAROMETER. 2, P.M.	BAROMETER. Sun s.	Wind, 2, P.M.	Weather, 2, P.M.	Remarks.
1	Thur.	30	38	34	28.57	28.81	28.90	N W	Squally.	10 inches of snow fell.
2	Frid.	30	39	38	29.41	29.55	29.60	N W	Fair	Beautiful sunset.
3	Satur.	32	41	40	29.25	29.22	29.25	W	Fair	
4	Sun.	34	45	42	29.32	29.27	29.26	S W	Fair	Beautiful sunset.
5	Mon.	40	43	41	29.30	29.20	29.17	W	Misty	
6	Tues.	24	25	22	29.54	29.74	29.73	N W	Cloudy	.25 inch rain.
7	Wed.	17	32	31	29.60	29.58	29.53	S W	Fair	
8	Thur.	28	34	29	29.49	29.49	29.45	S W	Snow	
9	Frid.	25	26	29	29.08	29.08	29.12	N	Cloudy	3 inches snow and rain in the night.
10	Satur.	28	27	24	29.53	29.70	29.76	N	Fair	Fine sleighing.
11	Sun.	22	29	32	29.68	29.55	29.57	S W	Cloudy	
12	Mon.	26	27	26	29.55	29.62	29.70	N W	Fair	
13	Tues.	17	21	23	29.76	29.56	29.48	N	Snow	Snow storm commenced at 12, M.
14	Wed.	22	26	26	29.39	29.09	29.20	W	Cloudy	Storm continues. 4 inches snow.
15	Thur.	26	30	31	29.57	29.62	29.66	W	Fair	Splendid sunrise. Fine sleighing.
16	Frid.	30	38	30	29.56	29.46	29.38	S W	Snow	
17	Satur.	19	20	23	29.30	29.25	29.18	W	Fair	
18	Sun.	22	27	20	28.79	28.86	28.99	N W	Squally	High wind.
19	Mon.	10	28	28	29.19	29.90	29.05	S W	Fair	Thermometer at 6, A. M., 4 above zero.
20	Tues.	22	34	32	29.46	29.50	29.54	S W	Fair	Beautiful sunrise. High wind in the night.
21	Wed.	28	32	34	29.44	29.25	29.09	N	Rain	1.76 inch rain.
22	Thur.	37	38	36	28.64	28.83	28.90	W	Cloudy	
23	Frid.	14	18	18	29.19	29.30	29.39	W	Fair	
24	Satur.	4	18	17	29.79	29.89	29.91	N W	Fair	Therm. at 6, A. M., 2 above zero.
25	Sun.	12	25	28	29.95	29.86	29.82	S	Cloudy	Snow squalls.
26	Mon.	23	35	32	29.75	29.77	29.76	N W	Fair	
27	Tues.	30	31	33	29.70	29.60	29.60	N W	Fair	
28	Wed.	21	32	22	29.75	29.80	29.80	N W	Fair	
29	Thur.	10	18	16	29.73	29.60	29.53	N W	Cloudy	Snow commenced at 8, P. M. 9 inch. fell.
30	Frid.	32	32	32	28.73	28.60	28 90	S	Cloudy	
31	Satur.	23	20	20	29.00	29.09	29.16	N W	Fair	

This month has been cold, but pleasant; the sleighing has been very fine. There have fallen 26 inches of snow, and 5.30 water. Range of thermometer, from 2 to 43; barometer, from 28.57 to 30.